(Delhi Administration) to CPWD offices at border areas till an alternate accommodation is allowed by the Directorate of Estates in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The existing guidelines framed by Delhi Administration do not provide for retention of Govt. accommodation by Central PWD employees, who are posted in PWD (Delhi Administration), on their posting to CPWD offices at border areas.

Government's policy regarding jhuggi colonies in Delhi

†921. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to allow more jhuggi colonies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will implement this scheme in other cities also;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (e) Government has been insisting upon land owning agencies in Delhi not to allow encroachment on their lands. In compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 15.2.2000 in CWP No. 888 of 1996—Almitra H. Patel and Another Vs. Union of India and others—the Government have again impressed upon the concerned authorities for taking all steps to protect their lands. So far as other cities in the country are concerned, in a meeting of State Ministers of Urban Development and Local Self Government held on 17.1.2000, the Union Urban Development Minister has impressed upon the need to check encroachments on public lands.

Policy regarding Urbanisation

922. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government towards urbanisation with the constant increase in the number of slum dwellers;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government are thinking of developing secondary and tertiary towns for this purpose; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tackle the problem of settlement of slum dwellers and whether there is any time-frame in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Govt. is in the process of finalisation of a National Urban Policy which aims at promoting sustainable, efficient, well-managed, and regionally balanced urban development in the country. In the Policy, the emphasis is on rural urban continuum and an articulated human settlement system with a well-defined regional hierarchy that integrates and strengthens the urban centres and surrounding rural areas. The policy would also focus on strengthening local bodies, improving planning, management and urban governance, reducing poverty protecting environment, promoting healthy and affordable housing as well as cost effective and efficient infrastructure and services systems and thus improving the quality of life of urban inhabitants.

(b) To encourage spatial dispersal of economic development and to increase the level of infrastructure and services and employment opportunities in medium and small towns at an accelerated pace, in order to promote growth in these towns so as to reduce migration to large cities and proliferation of slums this Ministry is already implementing such a scheme viz., Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT).

(c) The Problem of slum dwellers has been engaging attention of the Government since the Second Five Year Plan. At present following two specific schemes for the slum dwellers are going on:—

(i) Environment Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS)—It is a State sector scheme.

(ii) National Slum Development Programme (NSDP)—Under this programme additional Central assistance is being given to States/UTs for the development of urban slums.

The problem of settlement of slum dwellers in urban areas is to be tackled within the overall framework of the Government's policies on a continuous basis. Therefore, no time frame has been fixed for this purpose.